

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action of December 21, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the pending Claims 1 – 2 and 7 – 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103. In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 9 to specify the embodiments of the present invention and overcome the pending rejections. In addition, Claims 2 and 7 – 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Furthermore, Claim 10 has been added. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended and added claims. In All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by Deese et al. (US 5,457,450), hereinafter Deese.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the present-claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference. More specifically, Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejection to Claim 2 is moot. In addition, the embodiment of the present invention as defined in the amended Claim 1 includes the features of “a first constant current device in the driving circuit in connection with said one series circuit for maintaining a first constant current flowing therethrough”, “a second constant current device for maintaining a second constant current flowing therethrough” and “a second switch for selectively connecting the second constant current device to said alternative series circuit upon reconfiguration of said plurality of lighting devices.”

It is respectfully submitted that Deese fails to disclose or suggest a driving circuit for a solid-state array having a first and a second constant current device, and a second

switch, which selectively connects the second constant current device to the alternative series circuit upon reconfiguration of the lighting devices.

Therefore, the newly presented claim is not anticipated by Deese the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 7 – 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as allegedly being unpatentable over by Deese, in view of O'Brien et al. (US 4,065,716), hereinafter O'Brien.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the embodiments of present-claimed invention are not obvious over Deese, in view of O'Brien. At first, Claims 7 – 8 have been cancelled. The rejection to these claims is moot. As stated above, Deese does not disclose the invention as amended. Similarly, O'Brien also fails to teach or suggest the embodiments of the present invention as defined in Claim 9. In addition, as admitted by the Examiner, Deese does not expressly disclose that the current regulating device in connection with the one series circuit is a constant current device. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine Deese and O'Brien. Even if they are combined, Deese and O'Brien will not render the present claimed invention obvious. One of ordinary skill in the art would not discern the present invention as claimed at the time of its invention.

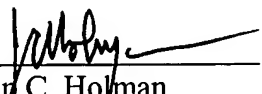
Therefore, the newly presented claims are not anticipated by Deese and O'Brien and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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